GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:426
ANSWERED ON:25.07.2000
PANCHAYATI RAJ SYSTEM
AVTAR SINGH BHADANA

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether some States have represented against the introduction of changes in the existing Panchayati Raj System;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps being taken to return the grievances of the grassroot governance?

Answer

MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SUNDAR LAL PATWA)

(a) to (c): Some States are not in favour ofchanges in the existing Panchayati Raj System and are of the view that since the Constitution(73rd Amendment) Act, 1992 was adopted after a nation-wide debate, any proposed changes would be likely to weaken grassroot democracy.

2. Issues of grass-root governance relate mainly to the devolution of financial and functional powers to Panchayats and Empowerment of Gram Sabhas, which is a continuing process, and in regard to which the Central and the State/UT Governments have taken initiatives. The Government of India have also advised certain State/UT Governments to expedite the process of empowerment of Panchayats